

10th, 1908.
Registered L. 39

THE NUR AF SEAN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

Vol. XXII

LUDHIANA:—Januray 17th, 1908.

No. 3

Editorial Notes.

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

We reproduce in another column an article, taken from the *Punjab Educational Journal*, written by Miss Mercy Ahmad Shah, B. A., Inspector of Schools, Patiala, which we commend to the managers of all our high schools. Why should not the principal or head master of every high school organize a teacher's association in his own school? Such an association would give every teacher the advantage of practically all the knowledge and experience in teaching, that is possessed by the combined teaching staff.

Such meetings should be held once a quarter to begin with. Each year it might be practical to hold a union meeting or convention for the city or district and so unify the methods for all associations and increase the knowledge of all the members.

We would also just here commend the *Educational Journal* to all teachers and principals of schools. Every number of it is worth the annual subscription price.

The meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in India, concerning which we wrote briefly in our last number, was a memorable event. Very special interest was due to the Moderator, Sir Andrew Frazer, K. C. S. I., Lieut. Governor of Bengal, who, by his presence and

masterful conduct of the business of the Assembly and by his words of wisdom, both at the opening and the close of its sessions, bestowed upon this branch of the Church in India a dignity and a character which was a spiritual uplift to every member of the Assembly, and should be an inspiration to the Church as a whole. We hope by and by to give to our readers the text of the closing address.

Much of the work of the Assembly was of a routine character, relating to the completion of the standards of the Church and the examination and review of Church records. The matter of most absorbing interest, was the dismissal of the South India Synod to unite with the Congregational churches of Madras, to form the South India United Church, a body which will comprise a membership of 150,000 members. Arrangements were made to secure a federal relationship with this new church, looking to a future organic union.

The report of the Committee on Union was exceedingly encouraging; and the Committee was continued. A letter was received by the Moderator from the Metropolitan of Calcutta, expressing on behalf of the Church of England in India profound sympathy with the work of the Presbyterian Church in India looking towards unity. A reply was prepared by a special committee on behalf of the Assembly and transmitted through the Moderator.

A popular meeting was held in the College street, Y. M. C. A. Hall, on the evening of the 30th Dec., at which the

Moderator presided. Addresses were made by Sir Samuel Chisholm, Bart., Rev. Dr. Wherry, Rev W. A. Wilson, Prof. J. R. Banerjee of Calcutta and Rev F. A. Ascroft, Editor Indian Standard, with closing remarks by Sir Andrew Frazer, K. C. S. I., the Chairman. The Hall was crowded by ladies and gentlemen, many of whom were non-Christians. The attention was good. The speakers endeavoured to show what the church of Christ in India stands for; and how the adoption of Christianity by India's people would secure the ideal things she is in need of. The next Assembly will meet in Ludhiana, Panjab, during the Christmas holidays of 1909.

The many remarkable discoveries, in connection with the excavations which have been made, and are now being made, on the banks of the Nile and the Euphrates, have prepared us for almost any wonder of the ancient world that antiquarian research may bring to light. The following account of the discovery of a Jewish temple in Egypt, as given by the editor of the *Presbyterian Banner* will interest our readers. We share the hope that these researches will yet put us in possession of some ancient manuscript copies of the Jewish scriptures. The latest great discovery is thus described:

"Prof. Charles Clermont-Ganneau, of the College de France, publishes a lengthy description of the striking results of recent excavations in the island of Elephantine, in Egypt. They prove the existence of a Jewish temple of Jehovah in that place under the twenty-

MADE IN JAPAN

LI

seventh dynasty (from Persia), with remains from the reigns of Xerxes, Artaxerxes, Darius Nothus, and the second Artaxerxes. They furnish names already known from the Bible, and one mentioned by Josephus. In 1904 the natives, while extracting ammoniacal earth from ruins, came on ten still perfect papyrus rolls, which were afterwards published by A. E. Cowley, of Oxford. These consisted of notarial acts concerning Jewish inhabitants of Elephantine and the city of Syene, with concordant dates of the Aramaean and Egyptian calendars for a period of sixty years (between 470 and 410 B. C.). The oaths were in the name of Jehovah, God of Israel, and—what was most surprising—his sanctuary was shown not to be a mere synagogue, but a veritable temple with sacrifices quite as in the now ruined, but still exclusive temple of Jerusalem. "This was enough to make, perhaps did make, Jeremiah howl," says M. Clermont-Ganneau. He was sent last year by the Academie des Inscriptions on a mission of scientific excavation. During four months, beginning with November, 1906, aided by M. Cledat, his eldest pupil, he used the funds supplied by Edmond de Rothschild in searching for this Jewish temple. A German mission had already preoccupied the greater part of the ground. A happy chance, in the part of the island which was left to them, directed the French diggers, after more than two months with none but Greek and Egyptian finds, to the very heart of the Jewish quarter. They soon came on quantities of ostraca bearing Aramaean inscriptions on both sides. These have not yet been completely deciphered; but enough is already known to disclose that they are of the same time, writing and language as the previous papyrus. They contain, among other matters of daily life, a quite new form of the name Jehovah. The French excavations were stopped by the heat in April last, but are now to be renewed with the firm determination to solve this mystery of the unknown temple. Prof. Clermont-Ganneau, with the vi-

vacuity which age and controversy have not quenched, adds: Who knows? Our picks may yet discover, laid away in some secret "geniza" a copy of the sacred book which was used in the ceremonies of worship—a Bible anterior by five centuries to Jesus Christ!

The twenty-first anniversary of the Moslem Educational Conference seems to have been a success, notwithstanding that it met in far off Karachi. Not less than 4000 guests were entertained during the four days by the Nawab of Khairpur. The following were among the more distinguished personages present:

Nawab Vikar-ul-Mulk, Maulvi Altaf Hussain Hali, Hon'ble Mian Shah Din, Mr. Muhammad Shafi, Shaikh Abdul Qadir, B.A., Shaikh Abdul Aziz, Mian Abdul Aziz, E. A. C., Mir Ali Niwaz Khan, heir apparent, Khairpur State, Mr. Younghusband, Commissioner, Mr. H. C. Mules, Collector, Mr. Wright, Maulvi Rahim Bakhsh, President, Council of Regency, Bahawalpur, Maulvi Muhammad Din, B.A., Dr. Muhammad Din, Sirdar Muhammad Khan, General Abdul Rahman Khan, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan, Mr. Ghulam-us-Saklain, Mir Ali Imam, Barrister at-Law, Patna, Mr. Archbold, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Hon'ble Chowdhri Nawab Ali of Dacca, Khalifa Sayad Muhammad Hussain, Patiala, Colonel Asghar Ali, Kapurthala, and Abdul Samad Kukroo, Rais Azam, Baramulla.

The subject of female education received much attention. It is to be hoped that the conference representatives will be able to arouse a practical interest among their constituents. The illiteracy of Muslem women in India is most lamentable, being about three per cent. Even this literacy must be limited, except in a very few cases, to the ability to read and possibly to write. Much of the education accomplished has been due to the persistent efforts of Mission schools and Zanana visitors. Educated Muslims should be ashamed of this state of affairs, and be led to undertake to bring about a change for

the better.

The following extract from the Punjab Educational Journal indicates how a father in any home might educate his own children.

"What can be done in female education has been shown by Sirdar Ajit Singh, of Patiala. This gentleman, unaided by a governess or tutor, has taught his little daughter, nine years of age, to read and speak English, Persian, Urdu, and Gurmukhi. She reads and recites, with feeling and expression, English prose and verse. She can converse in English on simple scientific and social subjects. She has acquired, under wise direction, a correct taste and a genuine love of reading. Her future ought to be bright and prosperous and wherever she goes she will afford a striking example of what can be done in the home, and how much can be learnt from the teaching of a devoted father. If Indian gentlemen would but take a personal interest in the education of their children, and not hand them over altogether to schools and teachers, we should hear much less of the difficulties of education, and fewer complaints regarding the slowness of the spread of female education. Let it begin at home; let parents make the first start, and we shall soon see it spread rapidly."

TEMPERANCE & PURITY.

The Empires of China in just now in the midst of a struggle to destroy the opium traffic which has caused so much crime and misery in the years gone by and which is still destroying its millions. The following statement of Chinese opinion presents a scheme by which the evil might be abolished within five years.

"The Chinese community having been approached by the Opium Commission, now sitting in the Straits Settlements, to give its views on the use of opium in the Colony, a well-attended meeting was held in the Chinese Chamber of

Commerce, sent down to the ter some commendat 1. Tha demned. 2. Tha ed to take Opium Far 3. Tha closed. 4. Tha smoking o hibited. 5. Tha children ur 6. Tha licensed, a daily consu 7. Tha smoking s importation 8. Tha opened for 9. Tha ing opium vice. 10. Tha opium shop ing in any families be the premi employed such shops

THE TEACHER BY MISS INSPECTOR

An INTERESTING FEMALE the State is ers' Assoc the Objec toria Girl answer—" frequent grades wo sides the t Primary schools ar sometimes ing progr schools are times happ to forty an we have o present. At the met with teachers, b of the Dir the difficu

ing in any other articles, and that their families be not allowed to reside on the premises. Also that no woman be employed or allowed to make use of such shops."

At the beginning, the Association met with some opposition from the teachers, but, with the aid and advice of the Director of Public Instruction the difficulties were overcome. So

The staff of teachers of the Victoria Girl's School render the Association much aid, they have given helpful talks and Miss Mozumdar has promised to give a series of object-lessons on common things, which

The "Federated Church" at Winona Lake, Ind., where the interdenominational character of the local institutions made a denominational organization inappropriate, has, it appears, been copied in a place and under conditions eminently dissimilar but equally inadaptable to a church of the denominational type. Rev. W.E. Edgin, chaplain of the Indiana state prison at Jeffersonville, has organized for the prisoners a church to which he gives the title coined at Winona. To be eligible for membership in this communion, a prisoner must have an unblemished record for good behavior through at least six months previous, and upon joining he must sign this creed: "I believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. I know and confess that I am a sinner. I now accept Jesus as my personal Saviour. I believe it is now my duty and privilege to confess Christ before men, and desire in obedience to his command to observe the holy sacrament of baptism and the Lord's supper in fellowship with his people. I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only rule of faith and practice, and I will endeavor to shape my life and conduct in accordance with its teachings." Any member of the church who receives demerit for violating prison rules will be suspended from membership until he wins reinstatement by repentance and six months more of clean record. On discharge, each member will be required to designate a church with which he proposes to unite, and he will be dismissed on letter to that church.

Interior.

NOTICE.

Subscriptions to the Nur Afshan are payable in advance. To all, who shall not have paid their dues to Dec. 1908 by Feb. 1st, we shall send a copy, V. P. P. This method of collecting subscriptions has now become quite common, and is most convenient for all concerned. Any one who does not wish us to send V. P. P. should write at once and oblige.

The Manager of the Nur Afshan.

TELEGRAMS.

London, January 11.

At a meeting held last evening, over which Sir James Orichton Browne presided, it was resolved to form a National Society for the Destruction of Vermin, notably rats.

Sir James Orichton Browne stated that Dr. Danyx of the Pasteur Institute had produced a bacteriological preparation fatal to the rat genus. The contagion produced by it was capable of rapid dissemination and caused a disease which forced rats to seek the air.

London, January 12.

A telegram from Rome states that it is officially reported that Captain Bon Giovanni, two native non-coms. and a number of Askaris were killed at Lugh. The remainder of Italian force retired. Captain Mollinari was un hurt. Fifteen Askaris have returned to Lugh.

A despatch from Rome states that Britain, France and Germany have telegraphed to their respective representatives at Adis Abeba to support the Italian Minister's demands made to Menelik.

London, January 11

Meetings of Indians were held yesterday at Johannesburg and Pretoria at which resolutions were passed that notwithstanding the inhuman sentences passed on Indians they were determined to continue the struggle.

Mr. Smuts in a lengthy reply trusts that his explanation will show that the Act was not intended to inflict indignity upon or hurt the religious susceptibility of Asiatics.

The new Anti-Japanese Immigration Regulation which provides that all immigrants must come direct from the land of birth will be enforced in British Columbia immediately.

Muley Hafid has been proclaimed as Sultan at Fez. It is feared that this will delay the release of Sir H. Maclean.

The Times correspondent telegraphing from Teheran says all the Zoroastrians have struck work on account of the brutal murder of one of their influential bankers. A state of terrorism prevails.

London, January 12.

Since the 13th December there have been 2,260 cases and 1,690 deaths from cholera at Hedjaz, and 841 cases and 673 deaths from the same cause at Mecca between the 5th and 9th instant. To-day three deaths are reported at Constantinople from cholera.

London, January 11.

Mr Takahira has been appointed Japanese Ambassador to Washington.

London, January 13.

Sir Thomas Lipton, interviewed at Colombo, said he had decided to challenge for the America Cup in September.

A telegram from Paris states that Henry Farman has won the Deutsch Archdeacon Prize of £2,000 by covering with an aeroplane a circular kilometre in eighty-eight seconds.

The proclamation of Muley Hafid as Sultan at Fez is recognised as a grave event, and is causing perturbation in Paris.

Some quarters, however, are disposed to question its importance in view of the constant see-saw of Morocco politics.

In reply to the Italian protest King Menelik professed ignorance of the raid, at which he said he was deeply grieved. The frontier chiefs had defied his orders.

He promised exemplary punishment of the offenders and an indemnity for the sufferers, and said he was determined to maintain the status quo.

The powers have presented a note to the Porte insisting upon prompt assent to the renewal of mandates of the foreign reform agents in Macedonia.

Mr. Farman's aeroplane is thirty-one feet long and the motor is extremely light. During the trial it kept at a height of about ten feet throughout, and turned and manoeuvred with the greatest ease.

The weather was favourable.

London, January 14.

Russian and German despatches from Teheran state that Prince Firman Firman reports that Turkish Kurds had surrounded him near Siybula and captured the treasury of thirty thousand pounds and a large number of rifles.

A despatch from Shanghai states that the bank manager who was arrested in connection with the attempt to boycott British firms has been handed over to the Taotai, who has issued a stringent anti-boycott proclamation.

A telegram from Capetown states that the south Africa Indian Association has passed a resolution for communication to India as follows:

With great grief we informed you that our leaders have been imprisoned by the Transvaal Government under the Asiatic Act. We earnestly hope that the Indian Government will intervene on behalf of Indian subjects in this country who are undergoing galling treatment.

Between fifteen and seventy-five people, mostly women and children, have been burned and trampled to death, and a hundred injured, by a fire due to an explosion at the cinematograph performance in a theatre at Boyertown in Pennsylvania.

Latest accounts of the fire at Boyertown state that there are 150 dead and 75 injured. The hall was crowded to witness a performance for the Sunday School children and in five minutes the auditorium was a furnace.

THE LESSEES AND PROPRIETORS OF THE LODIANA MISSION PRESS

have introduced new Steam Press for both Typographic and Lithographic printing in any language and character used in North and North West India.

Estimates of cost of printing are supplied on demand. *Special terms will be given for large orders.*

BINDING OF ALL KINDS DONE TO ORDER.

Address all orders to

WYLIE BROTHERS,

MISSION PRESS, LUDHIANA.

NOTICE.

The Allahabad Christian College affiliated to the Allahabad University, teaches up to B.A. and B. Sc.

For Particulars as to Staff, Fees, Hostels, etc.

Address

THE PRINCIPAL, THE JUMNA, ALLAHABAD.

Do You ride in a Rickshaw?

If you do, you will be interested in the very low prices charged for rickshaws at the Christian Boys' Boarding School, Ludhiana.

For ordinary work, even on the plains, a rickshaw is better than a carriage.

For particulars address

THE PRINCIPAL.